VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1
JULY, 1982

It's A PACKET CLUB

Name St. Louis Area Packet Radio

Born 6/30/1982

Weight 34 MEMBERS

Parents PETE - WB9FLW

BILL - WDØETZ

SLAPR PROTOCOL
NEWSLETTER OF THE
ST. LOUIS AREA PACKET RADIO CLUB

SYNC
FLAG
ADDR
CTL
DATA
FCS
FLAG

	CONTROL	

identifies the purpose of the packet

connect YOUR SLAPR PROTOCOL NEWSLETTER

Hello world!
We're here, ST. LOUIS AREA PACKET RADIO CLUB, that is. With it has come SLAPR PROTOCOL. This is Volume I, Number 1.

We have chosen SLAPR PROTOCOL as our name for the newsletter in order that it might be a part of our continuing education program. The title itself describes our purpose. PROTOCOL = "a format and set of procedures for achieving communications." That is precisely what we will try to do with each issue of SLAPR PROTOCOL.

Each field of SLAPR PROTOCOL will be identified by standard packet terminology in order to continually keep them before us and constantly help newcomers to feel at home with packet. Here are some of the regular fields that we plan:

SYNC = "first field in the packet to put things in order" This field is where we will try to keep all of us up-to-date on club activities, on and off the air.

ADDRESS = "identifies the source and/or destination station" We will attempt to use this field to identify ourselves as a club and as individuals.

CONTROL = "identifies the purpose of the packet" Your editor will use this field to clear out his so called "mind." Yep, an editorial.

DATA = "the field that contains the message that is being sent" This is what we plan to be the meat of each issue. Your and suggestions and contributions are very much welcome. Its trite, but it is true. A cl b is not a cl b at all unless YOU are really in it. We

plan a series of articles which will help all of us understand and enjoy packet to the full.

LAN = "local area net" Every editor I know has said that "your" newsletter really isn't worth the paper on which it is printed on of the computer in which it is stored unless every individual is part of the process. This is your field. It is up to you to fill this field. We want short items to keep us up-to-date on you and your activities. At present 1309 Gloucester Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025 is your "gateway" to SLAPR PROTOCOL.

GATEWAY = "a station having access to some long distance mode of communication" This field will be reserved for communications from other packet groups. We will share ourselves with others and hope they will reciprocate.

FCS = "the frame check sequence allows the receiving station to verify that the packet has been received correctly. Please report any technical, editorial or other errors so that we can correct them at the earliest convenience.

FLAG = "identifies the beginning or end of a packet" It is only fitting and proper that our president should have the "last word" in in each issue. Pete will hold forth on a subject of his own choosing and have us as his captive audience.

Ok folks. Your newsletter is off the ground and running. I hope that this first number has been to your pleasure. Please don't hesitate to make suggestions and/or corrections. I'll strive to make each issue a little better. We'll make it if you help. Call me on 147.42 or at the SLAPR adr.

disconnect W9DFZ, GUS

SYNC	FLAG	ADR	CONTROL	DATA	FCS	FLAG

SYNC	

SLAPR REGULAR MEETING NIGHT SET AS LAST MONDAY

The executive committee at its meeting on July 8 determined that the regular meetings of the St. Louis Area Packet Radio Club would be held on the last Monday evening of each month. The meetings have been set for 7:30 PM. Except during these early organizational sessions, it was agreed that aserious attempt will be made to keep club business to less than fifteen minutes. The rest of the sessions will be devoted to programatic offerings for educational or social purposes. So, put it on your calendar for the next five months.

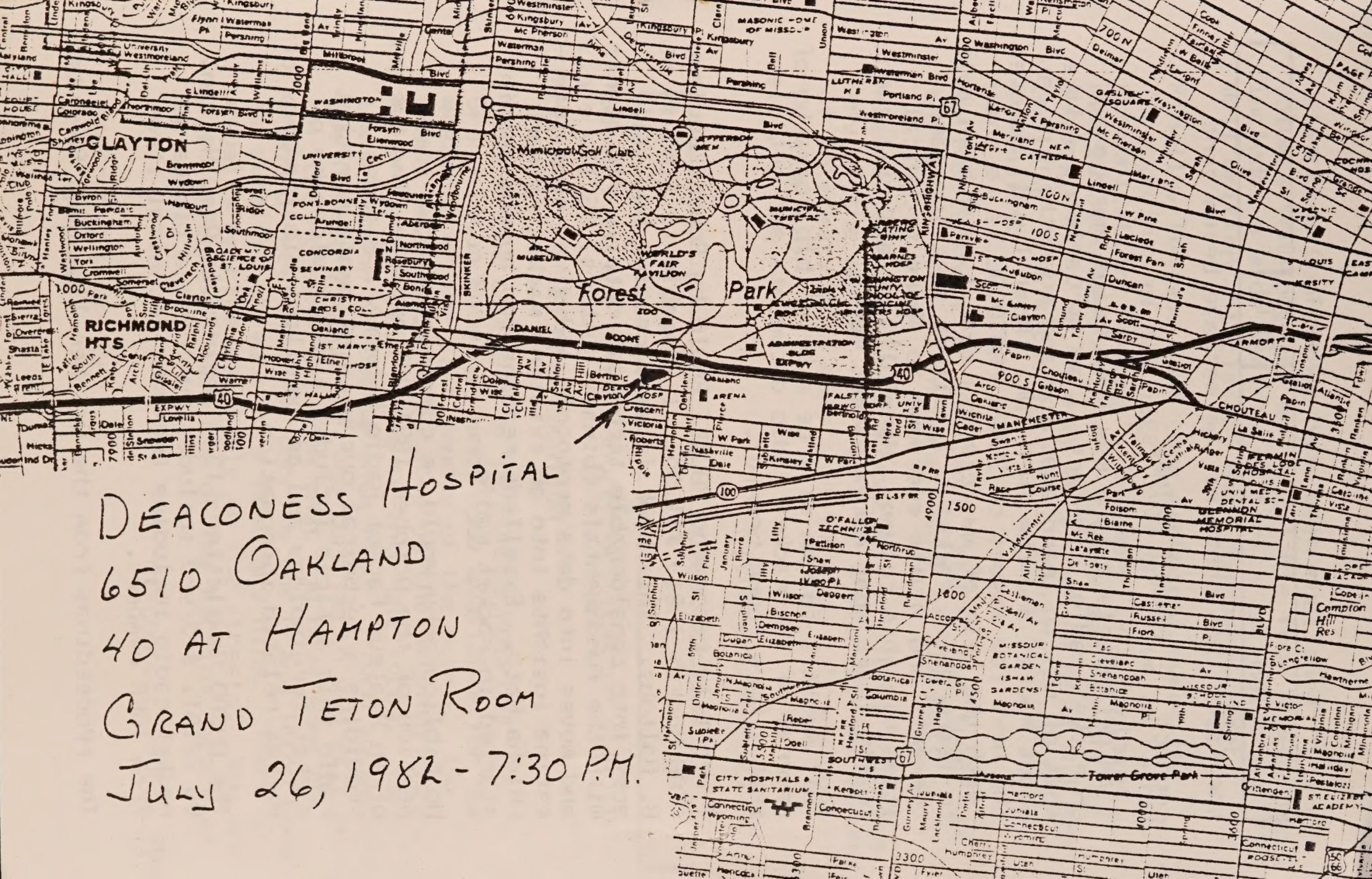
JULY 28
AUGUST 30
SEPTEMBER 27
OCTOBER 25
NOVEMBER 29

At this writing the program for the JULY 28 meeting is to be a video presentation of the TAPR BOARD and the regular TAPR packet presentation. The recording is to be made at the July TAPR meeting in Phoenix.

	ADR	

by Gus Kuether, WB0FZ

Who are we?
Remember that little form that you filled out at the meeting on the 30th of June? Besides your name and address it told us that belonging to the 28 of us who filled them out, there are: Apple - 6, Color - 5, TRS 80 - 3, two each - Ohio Scientific, AIM 65 S-100, SWTP 6800 and one each - Heath 89, Z80, 8088 6802, Altair 8080 and Digital Research Big Board. We asked for a bulletin board, mailbox, down loading and a newsletter.



DEACONESS HOSPITAL
6510 OAKLAND
40 AT HAMPTON
GRAND TETON ROOM
JULY 26, 1982 - 7:30 P.M.

	DATA	

the field that contains the message being sent

connect PACKET PRIMER

I am definitely a long way from being an "expert" on packet radio. In fact, I am struggleing , like most of us, to learn anything and everything I can about packet and the TAPR TNC. What I will do over the next few issues of SLAPR PROTOCOL is to share (with the help of my friends) what I have been able to learn about packet. I solicit questions and comments and invite everyone to share technical items via this column. Hopefully we all will eventually learn what makes packet work.

This month's column will be a brief bibliography of several of the packet radio documents and articles that I have found helpful.

I heartily recommend PACKET RADIO by Robert Rouleau (TAB Books, 1981) $11.95. I was able to find it at B. Daltons. This book is easy reading but still goes into considerable technical detail. It starts with the fundamentals (binary numbers, ASCII, etc.) and moves into data protocols and gives some interestins insights into an existins packet network (Aloha Net). Excellent readins for anyone gettins started in packet radio.

No bibliography would be complete without some mention of the October 1981 QST article "The Making of an Amateur Packet Radio Network". Besides providing a technical overview of amateur packet radio this article includes a brief glossary of packet terminology and an excellent bibliography of packet related information.

The AMRAD Newsletter (1524 Springvale Ave, McLean, Va 22101, $15/yr) includes numerous articles on packet radio including frequent technical items from TAPR members.

The proceedings from the October 1981 ARRL Computer

Networking Conference have been published in two volumes (Photocopies are available from AMRAD) and includes a wide variety of topics including two well written articles by Hank Maanuski, KA8M.

Finally, for you hard core technical types the "Proceedings of the IEEE, Special Issue on Packet Communications Network", November 1978 contains nearly 300 pages of packet theory and networking issues. Most of this is well over my head and probably of little use except to satisfy scientific curiosity.

Obviously there is much more "stuff" out there but the above seem to encompass most of the basics.

Please let me know if anyone has problems locating any of the above. If there is a significant amount of interest, then some sort of club library could be started.

disconnect WD0ETZ, Bill

	ADR	.

identifies the source and/or destination station

connect MEETING LOCATION

Through the courtesy of DEACONESS HOSPITAL the Grand Teton Room has been made available for our meetings of the last Monday of the month. The Grand Teton Room is located on the seventh floor. Enter by the main entrance into the lobby. Take the elevator to the seventh floor. Turn south into the Angulary wing. If you turn north you will enter the nursery and know that you have gone the wrong direction. The door to the Grand Teton Room is straight ahead in the Angulary Wing. There is usually parking available on the streets. You are also welcome to make use of the parking garage as an hourly rate.

disconnect W0DFZ, GUS

DEACONESS HOSPITAL
6510 OAKLAND

	DATA	

the field that contains the message being sent

connect INTEREST GROUPS

There are many things that an organization like SLAPR can accomplish, but unless the right catalyst is there, nothing happens. At this month's meeting I'd like to encourage discussion about organizing several interest groups to explore different aspects of packet radio. Obviously TAPR is well organized and has "fine tuned" their organization to develope the TNC hardware and software. If we could develope some of the applications of packet radio then our efforts would dovetail with the efforts of the Tucson folks.

A few of the suggestions I have received include:

A Local Area Network (LAN) interest group might
*Assist new stations
*Identify LAN protocol problems and fixes
*Monitor LAN operation and suggest improvements

A Bulletinboard/Mailbox interest group might
*Set bulletinboard/Mailbox interface protocols
*Build a bulletinboard/Mailbox system
*Implement an electronic newsletter

An Internet interest group might
*Coordinate St Louis participation in internet communications tests
*Monitor AMSAT Phase III progress
*Build the St Louis AMICON earth station

Let's start thinking about applications. We will take 10 or 15 minutes at the next meeting to discuss these or other possible interest groups. Let me know if you are interested in becoming a group chairperson.

disconnect WD0ETZ, BILL

station to access long distance communications

connect FIRST TAPR PACKET QSO

"After several hours of transmission of test packets, Lyle Johnson, WA7GXD, successfully initiated the first Amateur packet radio contact with all-American hardware and software, using the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Terminal Node Controller (TNC) at 9:12 PM MST, June 25th, 1982. At the receiving end was Den Connors, KD2S, who was co-located with Lyle at the WA7GXD station. The tests were conducted at 146.55 MHz in the Amateur two-meter band, with both stations sending plain-text ASCII messages.

The two-way contact lasted for about one hour, during which time several different experiments were conducted to determine optimal selection of components for the TNC modem amplifier-filter set.

Within twelve hours of the first QSO, the experiment was repeated over a distance of about twenty miles, from one side of Tucson to the other, under conditions which were as bad as "less than S1", with total success. Tucson's first packet "rag-chew" lasted about 45 minutes, with different antenna and signal-level combinations tried by Lyle and Den."

"These tests culminate hundreds of hours of effort on the part of WA7GXD, who has spearheaded the design of the TNC as Hardware Chairman. Completion of the modifications to the on-board modem next week will allow Lyle to release a final version of the TNC to a local Computer Assisted Design firm for the artwork and construction of the TAPR TNC Beta boards, which are slated for an August release."

by Den Connors, KD2S
taken from PACKET STATUS REGISTER
July 1982 - Number 1

	FLAG

identifies the beginning or end of a packet

It's hard to fathom in my own mind what has taken place in the last few months in the St. Louis area and in Packet Radio. Our first get together was well beyond my expectations, thrity-four folks showed up, some already knowing in detail what a switching network entails, and others perhaps just curious as to what all this "Packet Stuff" is all about. The day after that meeting (June 30) I called Den Conners, KD2S, in Tucson to give him our final TNC board tally for our area. His reaction, after a pause, was, "You're bigger than we are." Yep, it seems, we are the largest BETA TEST SITE in the nation. That is something to be proud of. But as you all realize, it will require a considerable amount of work on our part.

Den had some other interesting comments to make during our land line QSO. It seems the BETA boards we will be receiving will have a different CPU than originally announced. It will utilize the Motorola 6809E chip (TRS 80 Color Computer owners should be ecstatic) and run a Multi-tasking Forth. The reason for all these "last minute" changes seems to stem from trying to make the board capable of communicating at higher data rates and increase its flexibility. The folks at Tucson seem to feel 19.2 Kilobits per second is not an unrealistic baud rate to expect from the board! The bottom line simply put is, TAPR is trying their darndest to deliver a product that will be expandable and flexible enough to utilize as the network "grows" and not become obsolete. I'm sure the results will be gratifying.

Yours truly will be present in Phoenix on July 17 for TAPR's monthly meeting. I've been told the Tucson gang will have two TAPR boards operating on Packet Radio at the get-together. I'll be sure to gather all of the info I can and present it to you at our July 28th meeting.

Several folks have asked me how we can stay in contact with each other throughout the month, or more specifically where I personally "hang out" on two meters. Since I do not monitor any particular repeater, several of us have been monitoring 147.42 simplex where, for some time, the TRS 80 computer nuts have been keeping in contact. It seems a good place to start. Both Bill Reed, WD0ETZ, and Tom Vogel, WA0KGU, are .42 listeners. So stop by sometime and say "Hi." It's also a good way to check your simplex capabilities in preparation for our experiments with the BETA boards.

Lastly, my thanks to Gus, W0OFZ, for his solo effort in putting this first issue of SLAPR PROTOCOL out. This is just a glimpse of the potential talent we have available within our fledgling membership. It is my hope that all will help and pitch in to make this an organization riding on the leading edge of Amateur Radio technology.

73,

Pete, WB9FLH
President

	ADR	

by Gus Kuether, W0OFZ

Who are we?
That is something that we are just beginning to find out. As a result of the interest that Pete has stirred up, 34 of us got together at Quality Inn at Forest Park on June 30. The evening began with a resume of Packet Radio interest in the St. Louis area. After Pete's presentation, Bill Reed, WD0ETZ, gave a re-introduction to Packet Radio. Pete then outlined the requirements for becoming a BETA TEST PARTICIPANT. A provisional, for six months, Executive Committee was elected with Pete Eaton as President, Bill Reed as Vice-President, Ed Dillon as Treasurer and your writer, Gus Kuether as Secretary.

SLAPR PROTOCOL
ST. LOUIS AREA PACKET RADIO CLUB
1309 GLOUCESTER DR.
EDWARDSVILLE, IL 62025

GATHERING PLACE
147.42

NEXT MEETING JULY 26, 1982
GRAND TETON ROOM
DEACONESS HOSPITAL
6150 OAKLAND, 40 AT HAMPTON
ACROSS FROM FOREST PARK
ST. LOUIS, MO

MAGNUSKI, HANK
311 STANFORD AVE

MENLO PARK CA 94025